

Message Text

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73

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 AGR-20 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 L-03 TRSE-00

DRC-01 /083 W

----- 002222

R 171606Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6288

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 1461

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, BB

SUBJ: BARBADOS' REACTION TO SUGAR QUOTA REDUCTION

1. THUS FAR REACTION IN BARBADOS TO WEST INDIES SUGAR QUOTA REDUCTION HAS BEEN MILD. OCTOBER 17 LEAD EDITORIAL IN BARBADOS' ADVOCATE NEWS, "KING SUGAR BOWS IN SUPPLICATION", EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF U.S. SUGAR QUOTA TO REGION AND EXPRESSES SYMPATHY WITH CARICOM DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO SEEK RELIEF. EDITORIAL NOTES ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS OF LAST TWO YEARS, IMPORTANCE OF SUGAR TO REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND IMPENDING SUGAR DISCUSSIONS WITH EEC. U.S. QUOTA CUTS, IT GOES ON, ONLY SERVE TO INCREASE ANXIETY.

2. NEWS BROADCASTS AND UNOFFICIAL LOCAL COMMENT HAVE BEEN FAIRLY LOW KEY AND SO FAR UNEMOTIONAL. MAJOR THEME RUNNING THROUGH MOST COMMENT IS DISBELIEF THAT QUOTA CUT IS MERE OPERATION OF U.S. LAW. FACT THAT WE DID NOT REDUCE PREVIOUS YEAR'S QUOTA BECAUSE OF OVERSIGHT IS POINTED TO AS EVIDENCE THAT U.S. LAW IS BY NO MEANS IRONBOUND, AND APPEARS TO GIVE SOME HOPE THAT EFFORTS FOR RELIEF WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.

3. GOB OFFICIALS HAVE NOT SOUGHT OUT EMBASSY OFFICERS TO QUERY
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THEM ABOUT QUOTA CUTS BUT RATHER HAVE VOICED MILD CONCERN

DURING INFORMAL SOCIAL ENCOUNTERS. NEITHER SUGAR ASSOCIATION
(WEST INDIES NOR BARBADOS PRODUCERS) HAS MADE REPRESENTATION
TO EMBASSY. EXCEPT FOR LIMITED RADIO COMMENTARY, THERE HAS
BEEN NO LINKING OF QUOTA CUTS WITH U.S. DISPLEASURE OVER
NATIONAL OR REGIONAL FOREIGN POLICIES.
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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